have agreed to provide loan assistance of Yen 9.244 billion (approximately Rs. 100 crores) and not the grant-cum-loan for developing the tourism infrastructure at places connected with the life of Lord Buddha only in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The sub-components of the project include strengthening of roads and bridges along the National and State Highways in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, setting up of wayside amenities/ hotels, augmentation of water supply/ electricity, import of cars/coaches, etc.

(b) The loan assistance of Rs. 100 crores would be provided against the total project cost of Rs. 174.58 crores. The cost of sub-components of the project in the State of Bihar is estimated at Rs. 98.64 crores and for Uttar Pradesh Rs. 75.94 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Central assistance for construction of all-weather Jetty at Elephanta

*197. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Minister of Tourism had made a commitment to bear fifty per cent cost by the Central Government for the construction of an all-weather Jetty at Elephanta; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government in respect of the above commitment?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) A former Minister is understood to have indicated his willingness to consider some financial assistance for the project.

(b) Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned Rs. 10.50 lakhs for strengthening of a Jetty at Elephanta during the Sixth Five Year Plan. Maharashtra Government have now come with a proposal for assistance to meet fifty per cent of the cost for a new Jetty to be built at a cost of Rs. 03.08 crores. It is not possible to sanction another Jetty at Elephanta owing to the high cost of the project in relation to limited funds available for such projects.

Import of milk products

*198. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were commercial imports of milk products during 1988-89 despite an increase in the annual milk production in the country as compared to 1987-88;

(b) whether the per capita milk production during 1990-91 has gone up to warrant exports of milk powder by the NDDB; and

(c) whether it is a fact that NDDB is planning to import milk powder again for 1991-92 to meet its requirements for Delhi and Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Following the severe drought during the year 1987, the levels of milk procurement during the year 1988-89 were not sufficient to meet the increased needs of liquid milk marketing. Commercial import of milk powder was, therefore, undertaken to bridge the gap between procurement and marketing.

(b) The export of milk powder has been allowed to enable National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to earn foreign exchange for the import of palmolein for use in the market intervention operation of NDDB.

(c) No request for import of milk powder has been received from NDDB.